

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) An igniter assembly, comprising:

an igniter;

a substantially cylindrical metal collar that surrounds the igniter, the substantially cylindrical metal collar including a collar main body portion and ~~at least one of~~ a first protruding portion extending upward in an axial direction of the igniter from the collar main body portion, ~~and a second protruding portion extending inward towards the igniter in a radial direction of the igniter from the collar main body portion, and the first protruding portion having, at an upper end of the first protruding portion, a cylindrical portion extending upward in the axial direction, an entire inner surface of the first protruding portion forming only a single surface; and~~

a resin provided between the igniter and the substantially cylindrical metal collar to support the igniter with respect to the substantially cylindrical metal collar, the resin being provided such that at least a part of the igniter is exposed from the resin,

wherein at least one of the first protruding portion and the second protruding portion is in contact with the resin, at least an upper portion of the igniter is not covered by the resin, and an outer surface of the cylindrical portion of the first protruding portion is covered by the resin ~~and an outer surface of the substantially cylindrical metal collar and an outer surface of the resin form a common plane that extends in at least one of the axial direction and the radial direction.~~

2. (previously presented) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first protruding portion is cylindrical in shape, and the second protruding portion is circular in shape.

3. (currently amended) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein a material of the metal collar is selected from one of iron and aluminum.

4. (currently amended) An igniter assembly, comprising:
an igniter;
a substantially cylindrical metal collar that surrounds the igniter, the substantially cylindrical metal collar including a collar main body portion and a cylindrical protruding portion extending upward in an axial direction of the igniter from the collar main body portion, and the cylindrical protruding portion being provided with one of a stepped portion and a cylindrical ~~circular~~-inclined surface in an outer surface of the cylindrical protruding portion at a vicinity of an upper end of the cylindrical protruding portion, an entire inner surface of the cylindrical protruding portion forming only a single surface thereof; and

a resin provided between the igniter and the substantially cylindrical metal collar to support the igniter with respect to the substantially cylindrical metal collar,

wherein said one of the ~~cylindrical~~-stepped portion and the cylindrical inclined surface and an inner surface of the cylindrical protruding portion are covered with the resin, and the outer surface of the cylindrical protruding portion except for a portion where the one of the ~~cylindrical~~-stepped portion and the cylindrical inclined surface is formed is not covered with the resin, and

wherein, at least an upper portion including a top portion of the igniter is not covered by the resin, and the outer surface of the cylindrical protruding portion and an outer surface of the resin form a common plane that extends in the axial direction.

5. (previously presented) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein a material of the metal collar is iron.

6. (previously presented) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the substantially cylindrical metal collar further includes,

a circular protruding portion extending inward in a radial direction of the igniter from the collar main body portion,

one of a circular stepped portion and a circular inclined surface formed in a lower surface side of the circular protruding portion, and

wherein, said one of the circular stepped portion and the circular inclined surface is covered with the resin.

7. (previously presented) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein a material of the metal collar is aluminum.

8. (withdrawn/currently amended) An igniter assembly, comprising:
an igniter;
a substantially cylindrical metal collar that surrounds the igniter; and
a resin provided between the igniter and the substantially cylindrical metal collar to support the igniter with respect to the substantially cylindrical metal collar,
wherein the substantially cylindrical metal collar has a strength such that the substantially cylindrical metal collar deforms when the resin in a fused state is injected under pressure into a space between the igniter and the substantially cylindrical metal collar to obtain ~~deform the substantially cylindrical metal collar, such that~~ a tight contact between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the resin as the fused resin shrinks, such that ~~and~~ the substantially cylindrical metal collar returns to an original shape.

9. (withdrawn) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the substantially cylindrical metal collar includes a collar main body portion and at least one of a cylindrical protruding portion extending upward in an axial direction of the igniter from the collar main body portion and a circular protruding portion extending inward in a radial direction

of the igniter from the collar main body portion, and said one of the cylindrical protruding portion and the circular protruding portion deforms when the resin in the fused state is injected under pressure.

10. (withdrawn) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein the cylindrical protruding portion is provided with one of a stepped portion and a circular inclined surface in an outer surface of the cylindrical protruding portion at a vicinity of an upper end thereof, the circular protruding portion has one of a circular stepped portion and a circular inclined surface formed in a lower surface side of the circular protruding portion, and said one of the cylindrical protruding portion and the circular protruding portion deforms when the resin in the fused state is injected under pressure.

11. (withdrawn) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the metal collar is made of one of aluminum and aluminum alloy that deforms by the injection pressure of not less than 9 MPa.

12. (previously presented) The igniter assembly as claimed in any one of claims 1, 4, and 8, wherein the resin is a polyamide resin.

13. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an igniter assembly, comprising:
placing a substantially cylindrical metal collar around an igniter such that a space is formed between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the igniter;
charging a resin in a fused state and under pressure into the space, such that the substantially cylindrical metal collar is deformed due to the pressure of the fused resin; and
cooling the fused resin, such that a tight contact between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the resin is formed as the fused resin shrinks and the substantially cylindrical metal collar returns to an original shape.

14. (previously presented) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the igniter has an igniting portion and a conductive pin extending downward from the igniting portion, and the first protruding portion surrounds at least a portion of the igniting portion and the second protruding portion surrounds at least a portion of the conductive pin.

15. (withdrawn) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 8,
wherein a helium leakage quantity in a contact surface between the substantially cylindrical metal collar and the resin is less than $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Pa} \cdot \text{m}^3/\text{s}$.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the charging step includes the step of charging the fused resin at a pressure of not less than 9 MPa and then curing the resin while keeping the pressure of not less than 9 MPa.

17. (new) The igniter assembly as claimed in claim 8, wherein the substantially cylindrical metal collar deforms when the resin in a fused state is injected under pressure of not less than 9 MPa.